

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /077 W
----- 088256

R 021305Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1228

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 102

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PRISON REFORM: REPUBLICAN PRISONERS WILL PROTEST

REF: BELFAST 99

1. PROTESTS AND PROPERTY DESTRUCTION ON BEHALF PROTESTANT
PARAMILITARY GROUPS OVER WEEKEND (REFTEL) ACCOMPLISHED
LITTLE. SECRETARY OF STATE MERLYN REES STATED IN
PARLIAMENT MARCH 1 THAT GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS TO PHASE
OUT SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS WOULD NOT BE CHANGED BY
"BLACKMAIL". EARLIER, STANLEY ORME HAD POINTED OUT
THAT COST OF THIS VIOLENCE WOULD COME OUT OF NORTHERN
IRELAND BUDGET. NEW PARAMILITARY SPOKESMAN JOHN
MC KEAGUE ACKNOWLEDGED MARCH 1 THAT ULSTER ARMY COUNCIL
HAD ORDERED "PROTEST EXCEPT FOR BURNING OF BUSES."

2. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN VICE PRESIDENT MAIRE DRUMM
IN RADIO INTERVIEW INDICATED THAT REPUBLICANS WOULD
ALSO ACTIVELY OPPOSE ENDING SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS BY
FOLLOWING THE LEAD AND CARRYING OUT DEMANDS OF
"BOYS INSIDE". SHE RECALLED THAT PRISONERS HAD ALREADY
BURNED LONG KESH (MAZE PRISON). MRS. DRUMM ALSO SAID
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REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT NOT SATISFIED WITH HALF-REMISSION

SENTENCES AND WOULD CONTINUE DEMAND FULL AMNESTY.

SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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